

# News

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## **NEW ENGLAND METROPOLITAN AREA EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT: SEPTEMBER 2001**

In September, 21 of the 25 metropolitan areas within New England recorded unemployment rates below the U.S. average (4.7 percent, not seasonally adjusted) according to the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics. Regional Commissioner Denis M. McSweeney noted that nine metropolitan areas in New England had unemployment rates below 3.0 percent, while three had rates exceeding 5.0 percent.

New England's unemployment rate, at 3.6 percent in September, was up 1.2 percentage points over the year, reflecting rate gains in all 25 metropolitan areas. Fifteen of these areas recorded increases of more than 1.0 percentage point from September a year ago, with six increasing 2.0 percentage points or more. The largest gains occurred in Lawrence, Massachusetts and Lowell, Massachusetts, both up 2.5 percentage points. Seven other areas had increases ranging from 0.5 to 1.0 percentage point.

Over the year, 30,000 jobs were added to New England payrolls, an increase of 0.4 percent with eight metropolitan areas posting gains of 1,000 or more. Nationally, job growth increased 0.1 percent. Within New England, employment growth was strongest in Portland, Maine, up 2.3 percent, and Lowell, Massachusetts, up 2.0 percent, while Boston, Massachusetts added the largest number of jobs from September a year ago expanding by 17,200.

Although nonfarm payroll jobs in New England increased over the year, manufacturing employment was down 31,500, a decline of 3.1 percent. Boston, Massachusetts lost 5,600 factory jobs while Providence-Fall River-Warwick, Rhode Island and Hartford, Connecticut had losses of 2,800 and 2,300, respectively. Four other areas had employment decreases of 1,000 or more. Manufacturing payrolls in the remaining metropolitan areas in New England either edged down or were essentially unchanged over the year. Nationwide, manufacturing lost 957,000 jobs over the 12-month period, a decline of 5.2 percent.

Since September 2000, average hourly earnings of production workers on manufacturing payrolls increased in 19 of the 21 metropolitan areas for which data are available. Average hourly earnings ranged from a high of \$17.51 in Hartford, Connecticut to a low of \$12.38 in Providence-Fall River-Warwick, Rhode Island. Within New England, the largest percentage gains in pay occurred in Nashua, New Hampshire, up 9.3 percent to \$14.70, and Lewiston-Auburn, Maine, up 9.0 percent to \$13.85. Pay growth was also strong in Waterbury, Connecticut, and Portsmouth-Rochester, New Hampshire, with over-the-year increases of 7.1 and 6.8 percent, respectively.

### **Expansion of the Current Population Survey (Household Survey) Sample**

Effective with the release of data for July 2001, the Current Population Survey (CPS) sample size has increased from 50,000 households to about 60,000 households to meet the requirements of the State Children's Health Insurance Program. The sample was expanded for the CPS in 31 states and the District of Columbia beginning in September 2000. BLS, however, deferred use of the expanded sample until it had sufficient time to evaluate the differences, if any, between the 50,000-household and the expanded 60,000-household samples. An evaluation of the monthly data for the nation and the states from the two samples found no significant differences in either the national CPS estimates or the state and sub-state area model-based estimates. Thus, BLS has incorporated the additional sample into the July 2001 (and the revised June 2001) Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS) program's regional, state, and sub-state estimates presented in table 1. The LAUS expanded sample data for January through May 2001 will be incorporated into the LAUS estimates as part of the 2001 annual benchmarking. The August 2001 issue of *Employment and Earnings* will contain an article discussing the sample expansion in more detail.

## **Technical Note**

### **Current Population Survey (CPS) and Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS)**

This release presents labor force and unemployment data from the Current Population Survey (CPS) and the Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS) program. Estimates for the U.S. are obtained directly from the CPS which is a sample survey of 60,000 households that is conducted monthly for the Bureau of Labor Statistics by the Bureau of the Census. Data for the New England states are produced using estimating equations based on regression techniques and the data for the New England census division are derived by aggregating the state estimates. For the sub-state areas, estimates are prepared through indirect estimation procedures. The state and sub-state area estimates presented in this release are based on a sample survey and administrative data and thus are subject to sampling and other types of errors. Measures of sampling error for state annual averages derived from the CPS are available upon request. Error measures cannot be computed for sub-state areas but may be substantial due to the special estimation processes used and the small size of many areas. Labor force estimates for all states and areas have been revised to incorporate updated population controls, reestimation of models, and benchmarking to the Current Population Survey annual averages. These revisions were introduced with the publication of January 2001 data. Data back to 1998 are subject to revision.

### **Current Employment Statistics (CES)**

Nonfarm employment data presented in this release are taken from the Current Employment Statistics (CES) survey in cooperation with state agencies in each of the six New England states. State estimation procedures are designed to produce accurate data for each individual state. The national employment series are developed independently from the individual state estimates and the sum of the individual state estimates are not forced to national totals. New England data presented in this release are the sum of the estimates for the six states in the division. Because each state series is subject to larger sampling and nonsampling errors than the national series, summing them cumulates individual state level errors and can cause significant distortions at an aggregate level.

Once a year, the (CES) or establishment survey adjusts its sample-based employment estimates to incorporate the previous year's March employment counts in a process known as benchmarking. With the release of estimates for January 2001, nonfarm payroll employment, hours, and earnings for States and areas were revised to reflect the incorporation of March 2000 benchmarks. These revisions affected all unadjusted data from April 1999 forward and are subject to revision.

**Table 1. Labor force status for U.S. and New England region, states and metropolitan areas, not seasonally adjusted**

(Numbers in thousands)

State and area	Civilian labor force			Unemployed					
				Number			Percent of labor force		
	Sept. 2000	Aug. 2001	Sept. 2001P	Sept. 2000	Aug. 2001	Sept. 2001P	Sept. 2000	Aug. 2001	Sept. 2001P
<b>Connecticut</b>	1736.7	1741.0	1701.7	27.5	58.8	52.9	1.6	3.4	3.1
Bridgeport	217.0	216.1	212.1	4.2	9.6	8.7	1.9	4.5	4.1
Danbury	110.8	110.5	108.3	1.1	2.9	2.7	1.0	2.7	2.5
Hartford	590.2	589.4	577.9	9.8	20.4	18.3	1.7	3.5	3.2
New Haven-Meriden	280.2	281.4	275.1	4.8	9.4	8.0	1.7	3.3	2.9
New London-Norwich	154.5	158.2	152.7	2.6	4.5	3.8	1.7	2.8	2.5
Stamford-Norwalk	197.9	199.5	193.6	1.9	4.6	4.5	1.0	2.3	2.3
Waterbury	115.8	118.1	115.0	2.2	5.3	5.0	1.9	4.5	4.3
<b>Maine</b>	689.4	698.9	688.8	17.5	21.5	24.5	2.5	3.1	3.6
Bangor	51.9	52.0	52.8	1.0	1.2	1.4	1.9	2.3	2.6
Lewiston-Auburn	55.0	53.3	53.8	1.5	1.7	2.1	2.7	3.2	3.9
Portland	137.6	141.4	138.6	2.0	2.9	3.2	1.5	2.0	2.3
<b>Massachusetts</b>	3224.4	3405.1	3348.2	82.3	125.6	130.9	2.6	3.7	3.9
Barnstable-Yarmouth	77.1	86.8	78.7	1.7	2.0	2.0	2.2	2.4	2.5
Boston	1789.0	1891.6	1856.9	40.2	63.7	67.5	2.2	3.4	3.6
Brockton	128.4	133.3	132.4	3.8	5.4	5.4	3.0	4.1	4.1
Fitchburg-Leominster	66.2	69.1	69.5	2.2	3.7	3.7	3.4	5.3	5.4
Lawrence	206.7	219.6	217.2	7.6	13.0	13.6	3.7	5.9	6.2
Lowell	170.2	182.3	180.0	4.1	8.2	8.8	2.4	4.5	4.9
New Bedford	79.1	82.2	81.7	3.7	4.2	4.2	4.7	5.1	5.2
Pittsfield	38.0	40.4	39.1	1.2	1.5	1.4	3.1	3.6	3.7
Springfield	273.7	283.5	284.8	8.0	10.7	10.5	2.9	3.8	3.7
Worcester	242.8	253.4	251.9	6.5	10.6	11.2	2.7	4.2	4.4
<b>New Hampshire</b>	679.9	712.5	696.2	15.2	26.5	26.0	2.2	3.7	3.7
Manchester	107.8	113.3	111.4	2.1	4.4	4.1	2.0	3.9	3.7
Nashua	107.0	114.4	111.4	2.5	5.2	5.0	2.4	4.6	4.5
Portsmouth-Rochester	130.1	136.5	131.9	2.4	3.7	3.5	1.9	2.7	2.6
<b>Rhode Island</b>	506.0	509.9	507.9	20.1	22.9	20.1	4.0	4.5	4.0
Providence-Fall River-Warwick	572.0	579.3	576.6	22.1	26.1	23.6	3.9	4.5	4.1
<b>Vermont</b>	335.8	345.9	345.6	9.0	9.9	9.9	2.7	2.9	2.9
Burlington	102.6	107.7	107.2	2.0	2.5	2.6	2.0	2.3	2.4
<b>New England</b>	7172.2	7413.4	7288.3	171.6	265.2	264.3	2.4	3.6	3.6
<b>United States 1/</b>	140,357	141,862	141,576	5,324	6,956	6,708	3.8	4.9	4.7

P= preliminary.

1/ Data for the U.S. are obtained directly from the national Current Population Survey and are not preliminary.

NOTE: Data refer to place of residence. All 2000 estimates reflect benchmarking and new population controls.

Due to the expansion of the Current Population Survey sample, estimates for June 2001 and later months may not be fully comparable with those of earlier periods in 31 states (including each New England state except Massachusetts) and the District of Columbia (as well as their substate areas and the regions and divisions of which they are a part) that were directly affected by the sample expansion.

**Table 2. Employees on nonfarm payrolls in the New England states and metropolitan areas, not seasonally adjusted**

(Numbers in thousands)

State and area	Total nonfarm				Manufacturing			
	September 2000	August 2001	September 2001p	Chg. Sep'00-Sep'01	September 2000	August 2001	September 2001p	Chg. Sep'00-Sep'01
<b>Connecticut</b>	1702.5	1683.5	1692.7	-9.8	262.7	254.6	254.3	-8.4
Bridgeport	187.4	183.1	184.8	-2.6	36.6	36.0	35.9	-0.7
Danbury	89.3	88.0	88.5	-0.8	19.1	18.7	18.7	-0.4
Hartford	615.7	608.4	612.9	-2.8	89.8	87.0	87.5	-2.3
New Haven	263.6	262.8	264.2	0.6	38.0	37.6	37.6	-0.4
New London-Norwich	141.4	144.2	142.5	1.1	22.8	22.4	22.3	-0.5
Stamford-Norwalk	211.4	212.4	211.0	-0.4	25.1	23.3	23.6	-1.5
Waterbury	87.4	87.2	87.1	-0.3	18.1	16.8	16.8	-1.3
<b>Maine</b>	614.5	620.7	624.1	9.6	81.1	81.8	80.2	-0.9
Lewiston-Auburn	47.3	45.5	46.8	-0.5	7.6	7.1	7.0	-0.6
Portland	154.3	157.7	157.8	3.5	14.7	14.4	14.5	-0.2
<b>Massachusetts</b>	3347.0	3350.7	3377.0	30.0	435.5	422.1	422.1	-13.4
Barnstable-Yarmouth	66.8	72.4	67.0	0.2	2.4	2.3	2.3	-0.1
Boston	2047.9	2060.5	2065.1	17.2	215.4	210.3	209.8	-5.6
Brockton	100.6	99.4	101.0	0.4	11.6	11.3	11.5	-0.1
Fitchburg	53.7	52.8	54.3	0.6	12.8	12.3	12.3	-0.5
Lawrence	166.1	167.5	169.3	3.2	38.1	38.5	38.6	0.5
Lowell	130.1	131.9	132.7	2.6	29.6	29.8	29.4	-0.2
New Bedford	67.3	67.0	68.1	0.8	12.9	12.0	12.2	-0.7
Pittsfield	43.1	44.0	43.6	0.5	6.6	6.2	6.2	-0.4
Springfield	262.8	259.5	267.2	4.4	38.0	36.9	36.9	-1.1
Worcester	234.2	231.5	235.0	0.8	38.2	36.6	36.6	-1.6
<b>New Hampshire</b>	626.9	625.2	625.0	-1.9	105.3	101.0	100.5	-4.8
Manchester	107.3	106.7	108.2	0.9	15.2	14.9	14.8	-0.4
Nashua	100.0	101.2	101.3	1.3	27.9	27.4	27.4	-0.5
Portsmouth-Rochester	126.1	127.0	126.2	0.1	18.3	17.6	17.4	-0.9
<b>Rhode Island</b>	481.2	478.8	483.1	1.9	73.4	70.4	70.4	-3.0
Providence-Fall River-Warwick	532.6	528.4	533.5	0.9	93.3	90.0	90.5	-2.8
<b>Vermont</b>	300.8	294.1	301.0	0.2	49.2	48.6	48.2	-1.0
Barre-Montpelier	34.1	33.9	34.2	0.1	4.2	4.2	4.2	0.0
Burlington	108.4	108.0	109.9	1.5	19.8	19.9	19.8	0.0
<b>New England</b>	7072.9	7053.0	7102.9	30.0	1007.2	978.5	975.7	-31.5
<b>United States</b>	132411.0	132181.0	132511.0	100.0	18485.0	17653.0	17528.0	-957.0

p=preliminary

Table 3. Average hours and earnings of production workers on manufacturing payrolls

State and area	Average weekly earnings			Average weekly hours			Average hourly earnings		
	September 2000	August 2001	September 2001p	September 2000	August 2001	September 2001p	September 2000	August 2001	September 2001p
<b>Connecticut</b>	671.96	680.04	689.35	42.8	41.9	42.5	15.70	16.23	16.22
Bridgeport	635.91	619.08	639.22	41.0	40.2	41.4	15.51	15.40	15.44
Danbury	639.11	634.41	671.37	41.1	39.8	41.7	15.55	15.94	16.10
Hartford	737.96	722.36	752.93	43.9	41.9	43.0	16.81	17.24	17.51
New Haven	655.50	670.68	669.94	42.4	42.8	43.0	15.46	15.67	15.58
New London-Norwich	697.99	716.86	723.50	42.2	40.8	41.7	16.54	17.57	17.35
Stamford-Norwalk	526.06	551.71	570.96	39.2	40.3	40.9	13.42	13.69	13.96
Waterbury	648.93	641.38	645.43	44.6	40.8	41.4	14.55	15.72	15.59
<b>Maine</b>	590.30	618.05	626.37	41.6	39.9	40.7	14.19	15.49	15.39
Lewiston-Auburn	538.90	563.18	563.70	42.4	40.4	40.7	12.71	13.94	13.85
Portland	536.86	524.39	558.62	43.4	41.0	44.3	12.37	12.79	12.61
<b>Massachusetts</b>	616.97	624.75	634.27	41.8	40.7	41.0	14.76	15.35	15.47
Boston	667.82	678.72	686.20	41.3	40.4	40.7	16.17	16.80	16.86
Brockton	537.14	533.67	533.84	39.7	38.7	38.6	13.53	13.79	13.83
Lawrence	641.35	629.25	635.59	41.7	39.7	40.1	15.38	15.85	15.85
Lowell	584.63	588.35	591.43	41.2	39.7	39.8	14.19	14.82	14.86
New Bedford	517.08	548.10	555.02	41.3	42.0	42.4	12.52	13.05	13.09
Springfield	574.70	563.30	571.68	40.5	39.2	39.7	14.19	14.37	14.40
Worcester	619.48	599.07	607.32	41.8	39.7	40.3	14.82	15.09	15.07
<b>New Hampshire</b>	553.66	566.02	571.46	40.8	40.2	40.5	13.57	14.08	14.11
Manchester	600.58	644.78	631.45	39.8	40.4	40.4	15.09	15.96	15.63
Nashua	551.45	592.72	614.46	41.0	39.7	41.8	13.45	14.93	14.70
Portsmouth-Rochester	563.56	580.77	615.04	41.9	40.5	42.8	13.45	14.34	14.37
<b>Rhode Island</b>	496.94	486.00	490.04	40.8	40.0	40.2	12.18	12.15	12.19
Providence-Fall River-Warwick	510.88	516.65	517.48	41.2	41.8	41.8	12.40	12.36	12.38
<b>Vermont</b>	565.33	570.33	567.62	39.7	39.8	39.5	14.24	14.33	14.37
Burlington	625.40	596.51	615.68	42.2	39.9	41.1	14.82	14.95	14.98
<b>New England</b>	611.95	619.75	627.89	41.8	40.8	41.2	14.64	15.19	15.24
<b>United States</b>	606.52	607.51	613.50	41.8	40.8	40.9	14.51	14.89	15.00

p=preliminary